

# **TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1492 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, PA 17110  
717-238-8733

## **WEDDING GUIDELINES**

### **DATE AND TIME**

Weddings should be scheduled with a minimum of two months notice. This will allow time for three premarital counseling sessions with the Pastor, avoids schedule conflicts and gives time to finalize wedding details. Weddings are not appropriate during the penitential seasons of Lent and Advent.

### **PRESIDING CLERGY**

Normally one of the congregation's Pastors will preside over the wedding. With the Pastor's consent, other clergy may be invited to participate.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOTAPING**

Flash photography is permitted only during the processional and recessional. No flash photography is permitted during the service. A stationary (on a tripod) video camera may be used during the service, but must be set up in a place agreeable to the Pastor. No worship furnishing should be moved out of place by the photographer or wedding participant. It is recommended that all professional photographs are taken before the service. It is a courtesy to your guests to move from the service to the reception as quickly as possible.

### **FLOWERS, CANDLES AND OTHER DECORATIONS**

So as to allow for access to our building, a florist used by the congregation, is available for your wedding. This makes life easier for those who maintain the property. Candles (altar and or pew torches) may be used for your wedding. The congregation will provide them, but you must "foot the bill". Other decorations may be negotiated with the Pastor. Birdseed may be thrown as the bride and groom leave the church. Rice is not permitted. The front door shall be closed!

### **THE LITURGY**

The Marriage Liturgy from the Lutheran Book of Worship is used. Liturgical options such as the lessons, hymns, and form of marriage vows will be negotiated with the Pastor during premarital counseling. Holy Communion may be celebrated when both the bride and groom are baptized Christians. All baptized Christians attending the wedding must be invited to share in the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood. The bride and groom will provide the gifts of wine and bread.

## **ORGANIST/MUSIC**

Normally, the congregation's organist will play for the wedding. A guest organist may be invited with the organist's permission. At the bride and groom's request a soloist may be provided. Hymns, if used, will be selected during one of the premarital sessions. Preservice music, the processional and recessional will be selected in consultation with the organist. The use of the processional "Here Comes the Bride" is discouraged because it disparages the gift of marriage. To give ample practice time, music should be selected early on in the planning process. All music selected should embody high standards of quality and must reflect praise of God, and God's steadfast love in Christ as the model for marriage.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

Aside from the traditional attendants to the bride and groom, friends and family members might be invited to serve as lectors, acolytes or assistants at Communion.

## **DRESSING AT THE CHURCH**

Our parlor is designed to accommodate the bride's preparation before the wedding. A private bathroom is provided. You are welcome to use this room to get dressed.

## **REHEARSALS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Rehearsals are usually held the evening before the wedding. All participants should be present. If the bride and groom are not members of the congregation, it is suggested that they worship with the congregation prior to the wedding. The established Building Use Policy shall be in effect for your wedding. The Pastors' may preside over the marriage of nonmembers at their discretion.

## **RECEPTIONS**

Please do not assume the attendance of the Pastor(s) at your rehearsal dinner or wedding reception. They will be present only if you invite them and if they are available. Our Fellowship Hall may be available for your reception. You may provide for your own caterer or catering may be arranged through the congregation. Remember, alcohol use is limited to one ceremonial toast per person.

## **FEES (PAID IN ADVANCE)**

	<b><u>MEMBERS</u></b>	<b><u>NONMEMBERS</u></b>
Sanctuary	none	\$300.00+
Organist	\$100.00	\$125.00
W/soloist	\$125.00*	\$150.00*
Soloist	Negotiation between soloist and bride and groom at first consultation	
Custodial	\$50.00/hour	\$50.00/hour
Fellowship Hall	none	\$100.00
Bulletins	none	\$ 10 per 50
Kitchen	none	\$ 50 (if equip.used)
+Nonmembers w/membership elsewhere whose own pastor will preside at service - \$100.00		

**\*Each additional solo - \$15.00**  
**Revised 8/2000**